Supply of inferior quality items by Kendriya Bhandar

2392. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had constituted a Board to set up and run the Kendriya Bhandar as a cooperative store with the aims and objectives to meet the requirements of stationery and other items used in Ministries/Departments;

(b) if so, what is the composition of the Board and by what system Government would have check on Kendriya Bhandar for quality control and prices;

(c) whether it is a fact that Kendriya Bhandar is selling stationery items of inferior quality to various Ministries/Departments on higher rates by putting special quality brand instead of standard brands, if so whether this has resulted in malpractices in the Bhandars; and

(d) whether Government have any record of the properties movable/immovable of the officers/staff members of the Kendriya Bhandar; and if not whether Government propose to have a survey in that field to know the exact assets of each officer/employees of Board/Kendriya Bhandar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) The Kendriya Bhandar is a Co-operative Society registered under Delhi Cooperative Societies Act and is governed by the Act and Rules framed thereunder and its bye-laws. The aims and objectives of the Society are to ensure supply of quality goods to consumers, who are mostly Central Government employees, at economic and competitive prices. In furtherance of these objectives, Kendriya Bhandar sells ration, grocery, consumer goods, stationery and items of office use to its customers which include Government departments.

(b) The overall management of this Cooperative Society vests in the Board of Directors which comprise of a Chairman, eight Directors nominated by the Government of India and eight elected Directors representing the Shareholders. The Government however does not interfere in the day to day business operations of the Kendriya Bhandar.

(c) The Kendriya Bhandar being a trading organisation has also to make available goods of popular brands as per the requirement of its customers. Branded stationery items like Kores Carbon papers and stencils, Luxor and Wilson Pens, Modi Xerox Photocopier Machines and Paper etc. are being procured directly from manufacturers although their rates may be higher than the lowest rates quoted by manufacturers of other brands. This enables the customers to select items of their choice/preference. At prtsent no complaints are pending from any Ministry /Department regarding supply of inferior quality items against indent of branded stationery items.

(d) Being a Consumer Cooperative Society the employees of the Kendriya Bhandar are governed by the Delhi Shops and Establishments Act 1954 and Delhi Shops and Establishments Rules 1954 which provide for disciplinary action for any misconduct involving illegal gratification, theft, fraud, misappropriation or dishonesty in connection with the Society's business or property. The Society has been directed to adopt the pattern in vogue in the Government with regard to submission of annual movable/immovable property returns by its employees.

Adverse remarks against the officers by Chief Elections Commissioner

2393. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names and designations of the officers belonging to All India Services against whom the Chief Election Commissioner has made adverse remarks/ob-

servations during the years 1990-91 and 1991-92;

(b) whether the officers have been given a chance to defend themselves; and

(c) whether such remarks have been examined by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) As per information available with the Central Government the following officers of the All India Services have been issued warning/letter of displeasure by the Chief Election Commissioner:

I. During 1990-91 — No case

II. During 1991-92:—

(1) Shri A. K. Patnaik, IAS (WB: 71) Chairman, Paradip Port Trust;

(2) Shri K. K. Bhatnagar, IAS (PB: 70) Member Secretary, National Capital Region, Planning Board.

(3) Shri V. K. Kapur, IAS (UT: 61) Chief Secretary Jammu & Kashmir.

(b) As a result of their representation/explanation the warnings issued to Shri A. K. Patnaik and Shri K. K. Bhatnagar have been withdrawn by the Commission. The third officer, Shri V. K. Kapur is serving in a State Government. The Election Commission had written to the State Government to place on record the Commission's displeasure of the action and conduct of Shri V. K. Kapur. We have been informed that this matter is receiving the attention of the State Government.

(c) In the first two cases warning letters were withdrawn by the Election Commission while the matter was under examination. The third case is being examined by the State Government. It would be examined by the Govt. of India if a reference to that effect is received from the State Government or from the officer through the State Govt.

2394. [*Transferred to the 5th August*, 1992]

SC/ST Officers in Govt. of India

2395. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes separately at different levels in Government of India as on 31st March, 1992;

(b) whether the percentage of officers belonging to the S.C. and S.T. at different levels has reached 15 and 7.5 respectively; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed, containing information as on 1.1.1991. (*See* below).

(c) The reasons for the shortfall in SC/ST representation is mainly the non-availability of suitable candidates from these Communities particularly, in Scientific and Technical disciplines.